

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:RLHART:JZ
APPROVED BY AF/W:RMMOOSE
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P 112159Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BISSAU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PDIP, PU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR FERNANDES' CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MOOSE

1. GUINEA-BISSAU AMBASSADOR GIL FERNANDES PAID A COURTESY
CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE ON MAY 9. THEY HAD
PREVIOUSLY MET, BUT THIS WAS FERNANDES' FIRST OFFICIAL CALL.
GUINEA-BISSAU DESK OFFICER ROGER HART ALSO ATTENDED.

2. MOOSE ASKED IF THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY SAM
NUJOMA'S RECENT DEPARTURE FROM THE NAMIBIA TALKS, AND THE
AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE DECISION TO BREAK OFF THE TALKS
MAY HAVE COME FROM THE SWAPO CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

MR. MOOSE ASKED WHETHER THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAID INTO ANGOLA
(CASSINGA) WAS A BIG MATERIAL BLOW TO SWAPO. THE AMBASSADOR
FELT THAT THEY HAD LOST A LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT THOUGHT SWAPO
HAD TIME ON ITS SIDE. ASKED WHETHER NUJOMA WAS UNSURE OF
HIS PROSPECTS IN AN ELECTION, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT
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DEPENDENT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF AN ELECTION. HE NOTED THAT
THE SOUTH AFRICANS SEEM FAVORABLE TO THE WESTERN FIVE PLAN.
ON RHODESIA, FERNANDES STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE INTERNAL
GROUP WAS NOT HOLDING TOGETHER, AND COULD COLLAPSE IN A FEW
MONTHS.

3. MOOSE ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU. THE

AMBASSADOR CLAIMED IT WAS QUIET, BUT THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH THE PERSISTENT DROUGHT, WHICH HAS PREVENTED RECOVERY OF RICE PRODUCTION FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE. NOW GUINEA-BISSAU HAS TO IMPORT AROUND HALF ITS RICE. ALSO, THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN THE FISHING SECTOR, WHICH IS POTENTIALLY AN EARNER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE; THE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS IS NOT WORKING OUT, AND IS IN FACT LOSING MONEY, AN INDICATION THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

4. FERNANDES MENTIONED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE PARTY (PAIGC), EXPLAINING THAT THE PARTY WAS THE ONLY INSTITUTION DURING THE WAR, BUT NOW IN PEACETIME THE GOVERNMENT HAS ECLIPSED IT. THAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE RECENT PARTY CONGRESS - TO MOBILIZE THE PEOPLE AND REVIVE THE PARTY. THE MOST VALUABLE ROLE FOR THE PARTY NOW IS TO CHANNEL THE PEOPLE'S COMMITMENT. THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED IN GUINEA-BISSAU BEFORE, HE SAID, AND SO CAN BE AGAIN IN PEACETIME, ALTHOUGH THE DROUGHT HURTS THAT EFFORT. GUINEA-BISSAU IS TRYING TO AVOID THE TRAP OF DEVELOPING ONLY THE URBAN/ELITE SECTOR, AND NEGLECTING THE RURAL PEOPLE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WANTED TO THANK MOOSE FOR PAST U.S. FOOD AID, AND ALSO TO ASK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A LONG-TERM LOAN. MOOSE ASKED HART TO ARRANGE A MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR WITH STATE AND AID OFFICIALS WHO COULD EXPLAIN U.S. AID AND LOAN PROGRAMS. MOOSE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH U.S.-GUINEA-BISSAU RELATIONS, SAYING THEY COULD BE A MODEL FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. VANCE

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